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AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT

The most interesting and convincing feature is that the Attorney-General's report is itself based on reports from the prosecuting officers of each province, given in reply to specific questions formulated for them. These provincial reports are written by the man on the spot. He is full of his subject; he has been close to the crimes themselves. He has views of his own as to the causes, the difficulties, the prospects. Out of these combined reports is built a general survey which shows the common features of the problem and its local varieties. A perusal of the extracts from the local reports makes the reader feel the reality of the facts, and the intensity of the problems. There is nothing like it in any of our State reports.

This report ends with a ten-page comment on the "Causes of and Remedies for the Most Common Crimes," and an Appendix on the "Influence of Food and Climate on Criminality."

But what will be the surprise of one of our Attorneys-General or State's Attorneys, on perusing these comments in the Manila report, amidst the lawyer-like citations of "Ordinance No. 106, Nov. 20, 1908," and "Act No. 1773," to find also citations and quotations of Ferri's "Criminal Sociology," and Carpena's "Criminal Anthropology," and similar works? "What!" he will exclaim, "am I expected to know anything about criminal sociology or criminal anthropology or such academic literature? Must I test my conclusions or explain my facts by any principles of criminal science? I am supposed to know the *law*. And is not that enough?"

Well, it *has* been enough. But it is not going to be enough any longer. At least, there are those who believe that it is a matter for national chagrin if the Attorney-General's office in our newest territory can make a report which enlightens and vivifies the whole subject of this part of his duty, while the other offices of our Attorneys-General do not show the progressiveness that would lead them to do the same.

J. H. WIGMORE.

AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF BOSTON.

The judges of the Municipal Court of the city of Boston have just appointed Victor V. Anderson, M. D., as an assistant probation officer in that court. Dr. Anderson, in addition to the usual medical training, is a special student of psychology, and is at present an assistant instructor in psychology in Harvard University. He has also been an assistant for the last two years in the Summer School courses given at Harvard

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by Dr. William Healy of Chicago, in Abnormal Psychology, with special reference to delinquents. He is assistant physician at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital, a Teaching Fellow in Psychiatry in the Graduate School of Medicine in Harvard University, giving a course on the diagnosis of feeble-mindedness to post graduate physicians, and since the opening of the Boston State Hospital, has been on the medical staff in the Psychopathic Department, carrying on a special investigation of mental defectives.

The appointment of Dr. Anderson to his present post is a frank admission by the judges of that court of the need of an expert in matters of medicine and psychology in supplementation of its ordinary probation work, and the appointment is made in the hope and expectation that his services will be valuable, not only to the judges of the court in determining criminal responsibility of prisoners, and lesser degrees of feeble-mindedness indicating necessity for medical rather than penal treatment, but also of assistance to the remainder of the probation force of the court through his expert training in matters of psychology, in indicating proper methods of treatment of persons on probation.

Appointments of this sort are the logical consequences of the doctrine of individualization of punishment. We must know the individual to whom punishment is to be fitted unless we are willing to go on, in an archaic fashion, making the extent and nature of penal treatment depend upon the offense committed; the theft of a dollar watch or of a high grade automobile, for instance. We are not willing to go on that way. The development in Boston is exactly in the line of progress that is most earnestly urged by the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. The Committee of the Institute on "Methods of Recording Data Concerning Criminals" has recommended the creation of just such situations in our own courts as that which Dr. Anderson has come to fill in Boston. The last report of this Committee is now in bulletin form and may be obtained from the secretary at Madison. The rapid development of a department for research in the state reformatory at Jeffersonville, Indiana, is another hopeful sign of the times in American criminology.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

FARM LABOR FOR CONVICTS IN ILLINOIS.

It is announced that 300 convicts from the state prison at Joliet, Illinois, will immediately be employed on a one thousand acre farm that has been obtained for the purpose near Joliet. This, up to date, is the culmination of the efforts of the State Prison Commission on which Mr. James A. Patten and Congressman Copley have done conspicuous